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PRESS RELEASE

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THIRD DEFENDANT IN LACKAWANNA SIX CASE PLEADS GUILTY
TO TRAINING WITH AL QAEDA

Today, U.S. Attorney Michael Battle of the Western District of New York announced that Yahya Goba, one of six American men accused of attending a terrorist training camp, admitted his guilt to the charge of providing material support to Usama bin Laden and the terrorist organization al Qaeda. Goba is the second person to be convicted in this case of providing material support, and the third out of six defendants overall convicted of training with bin Laden and al Qaeda.

Last October, Goba was one of six defendants charged in a two-count indictment with providing material support or resources to al Qaeda. The “material support” alleged in the indictment consisted of the men training in the al Farooq camp maintained by bin Laden and the al Qaeda organization in such terrorist-type subjects as weaponry, explosives, and tactics. Significant breakthroughs in the case occurred when two of the defendants, Faysal Galab and Shafal Mosed, pleaded guilty to this conduct, and agreed to cooperate in the Government’s ongoing investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr., Chief of the Office's Anti-Terrorism Unit, stated that today's conviction further strengthens the case against the remaining defendants, and enhances the Government's ability to identify and prosecute other persons who may have been involved in the same criminal conduct. Mr. Hochul added that the Goba information sheds light on some other persons involved in the defendants' criminal conduct, including recruiters and a person responsible for financing one defendant's excursion to the camp.

U.S. Attorney Battle praised the intensive investigation conducted by agents of the FBI in coordination with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and other federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies, whose hard work and dedication were responsible for today's conviction. Mr. Battle declared that the policy of the Bush Administration and U.S. law enforcement officials in aggressively investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases is paying off, since three persons have now been convicted in connection with training with al Qaeda.

During his Court appearance, Goba admitted that in April 2001, he attended the Al Farooq terrorist training camp in Afghanistan with the other codefendants under Indictment. During this training, Goba acknowledged seeing and hearing from the head of al Qaeda, Usama bin Ladin, who spoke of persons willing to become martyrs for the cause. Significantly, Goba stated that the topic of suicide attacks arose prior to the defendant's attendance at the camp, with such indoctrination beginning during a stay at a guest house in Kandahar, Afghanistan. On a more ominous note, Goba further admitted that following completion of his training, one of the persons responsible for

recruiting his attendance stayed at his residence in Lackawanna until shortly after September 11, 2001, following which time this recruiter was believed by Goba to have been apprehended by America in Afghanistan.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Hochul stated that the prosecution of the remaining three indicted defendants continues. While refusing to name specific targets, Mr. Hochul stated that any person responsible for recruiting the defendants, providing money to the defendants, assisting in their travel to Afghanistan, and in later concealing the crime, could also be brought to justice in the future under the same law used to convict Goba.

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